

Remarks

Claims 1-21 are pending in the instant application. Applicants have amended claims 1-15, 17, and 18 to more fully conform with U.S. practice and to delete multiple dependencies. Applicants have cancelled claims 20 and 21, without prejudice. A version of the claims marked up to show the amendments, as well as a clean version of the claims encompassing the amendments, is attached hereto.

Applicants respectfully assert that all amendments are fairly based on the specification, and respectfully request their entry.

Applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are in allowable form, and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 1-19.

Respectfully submitted,



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Claims (marked-up version showing amendment(s))

[CLAIMS]

What is claimed is:

1. (once amended) A ventilation system for reducing the amount of anaesthetic released from an anaesthetic administration station into a surgery suite, the system comprising at least one inlet positioned adjacent to [an]at least one area of anaesthetic release from the anaesthetic administration station, and a conduit leading from the inlet to an exhaust.
2. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in claim 1, wherein there are]of claim 1 comprising a plurality of areas of anaesthetic release[,]and an inlet [being provided]adjacent to each area.
3. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in]of claim 2, wherein said conduit comprises a main pipe connected at one end to the exhaust, and a plurality of branch pipes, each branch pipe connecting an inlet to said main pipe.
4. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in]of claim 3, wherein each [said]branch pipe includes a valve for regulating flow in said branch pipe.

5. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in any preceding claim]of claim 1, further comprising means for entraining air in the form of a fan disposed in the region of said exhaust.
6. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in any preceding claim]of claim 1, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station is an induction chamber, where animals are initially anesthetized.
7. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in]of claim 6, wherein the inlet is provided above the induction chamber.
8. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in]of claim 7, wherein the inlet is in the form of an inverted funnel connected to the conduit.
9. (once amended) A ventilation system [as claimed in]of claim 6, wherein the induction chamber [comprises]contains a plurality of compartments, including a first compartment where animals are initially anaesthetized [and]having means for the supply and removal of anaesthetic, and a second compartment connected to said inlet, the compartments being arranged such that anaesthetic escaping from the first compartment passes into the second compartment and thence to the inlet.

10. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claim in]of claim 9, wherein said first and second compartments are joined by a selectively closeable passage.
11. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10]of claim 9, wherein said inlet is at the top of the second compartment, and a lower region of said second compartment is provided with at least one ventilation hole for the intake of air.
12. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in any preceding claim]of claim 1, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station comprises at least one breathing station where surgery is carried out on the animal.
13. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in]of claim 12, wherein [the or each]said at least one breathing station includes an orifice for insertion of an animal's nose, the inlet being provided next to the orifice.
14. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in]of claim 13, wherein said inlet is defined at an end of a length of tubing.
15. (once amended) [A]The ventilation system [as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13]of claim 12, wherein said inlet is formed as an annulus surrounding the orifice.

17. (once amended) [A]The method [as claimed in]of claim 16, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station is an induction chamber, where animals are initially anesthetized.
18. (once amended) [A]The method [as claimed in claim 16 or claim 17]of claim 16, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station comprises at least one breathing station where surgery is carried out on an animal.

Claims (clean version encompassing amendments)

What is claimed is:

1. (once amended) A ventilation system for reducing the amount of anaesthetic released from an anaesthetic administration station into a surgery suite, the system comprising at least one inlet positioned adjacent to at least one area of anaesthetic release from the anaesthetic administration station, and a conduit leading from the inlet to an exhaust.
2. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 1 comprising a plurality of areas of anaesthetic release and an inlet adjacent to each area.
3. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 2, wherein said conduit comprises a main pipe connected at one end to the exhaust, and a plurality of branch pipes, each branch pipe connecting an inlet to said main pipe.
4. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 3, wherein each branch pipe includes a valve for regulating flow in said branch pipe.
5. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 1, further comprising means for entraining air in the form of a fan disposed in the region of said exhaust.

6. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 1, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station is an induction chamber, where animals are initially anesthetized.
7. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 6, wherein the inlet is provided above the induction chamber.
8. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 7, wherein the inlet is in the form of an inverted funnel connected to the conduit.
9. (once amended) A ventilation system of claim 6, wherein the induction chamber contains a plurality of compartments, including a first compartment where animals are initially anaesthetized having means for the supply and removal of anaesthetic, and a second compartment connected to said inlet, the compartments being arranged such that anaesthetic escaping from the first compartment passes into the second compartment and thence to the inlet.
10. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 9, wherein said first and second compartments are joined by a selectively closeable passage.
11. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 9, wherein said inlet is at the top of the second compartment, and a lower region of said second compartment is provided with at least one ventilation hole for the intake of air.

12. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 1, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station comprises at least one breathing station where surgery is carried out on the animal.
13. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 12, wherein said at least one breathing station includes an orifice for insertion of an animal's nose, the inlet being provided next to the orifice.
14. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 13, wherein said inlet is defined at an end of a length of tubing.
15. (once amended) The ventilation system of claim 12, wherein said inlet is formed as an annulus surrounding the orifice.
16. A method of installing a system for reducing the amount of anaesthetic released from an anaesthetic administration station into a surgery suite, the method comprising positioning at least one inlet adjacent to an area of anaesthetic release from the anaesthetic administration station, and connecting the inlet to an exhaust by means of a conduit.

17. (once amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station is an induction chamber, where animals are initially anesthetized.
18. (once amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station comprises at least one breathing station where surgery is carried out on an animal.
19. A ventilation system for reducing the amount of anesthetic released from an anaesthetic administration station into a surgery suite, the system comprising at least one inlet for discharging gas to be exhausted, said inlet being positioned adjacent to an area of anaesthetic release from the anaesthetic administration station.